

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /082 W  
-----094120 071115Z /11

R 061740Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9652  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BAMA KO 2648

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID PEPR US ML  
SUBJECT: U.S. - MALI BILATERAL RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. THE NEW MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAS MET ONE  
BY ONE AT HIS INITIATIVE WITH ALL HEADS OF MISSION TO  
DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN HIS MEETING WITH ME  
HE URGED A U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO INFRASTRUCTURE IN MALI  
AND ASKED TO CALL ON THE SECRETARY BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 15  
AND OCTOBER 15 IN WASHINGTON. I SUPPORT BOTH REQUESTS.  
END SUMMARY.

2. THE NEW MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, ALIOUNE BLONDIN  
BEYE, HAS BEEN HAVING A SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS WITH  
HEADS OF MISSION, IN PROTOCOL ORDER, AT HIS INITIATIVE.  
AT EACH OF THEM HE HAS MADE A CAREFULLY PREPARED STATEMENT  
TAILORED TO THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE COUNTRY  
OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF HIS INTERLOCUTOR.  
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3. MY TURN CAME JUNE 1. IN ELOQUENT TERMS BEYE SAID  
(IN SUMMARY) THAT, EVEN THOUGH THE UNITED STATES WAS  
A HUGE, RICH, POWERFUL COUNTRY, MALI KNEW THAT THE  
UNITED STATES COULD UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS OF A YOUNG  
NATION. THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO  
WAS, AFTER ALL, A MODEL FOR THOSE SEEKING INDEPENDENCE,

AND THE UNITED STATES HAD GONE THROUGH GREAT DIFFICULTY IN ITS EARLY YEARS, JUST AS THE NEW STATES OF AFRICA WERE DOING NOW. THE UNITED STATES HAD ALSO CONTENDED WITH THE FORCES OF DISUNITY AND HAD EVEN HAD TO SUFFER A TRAGIC WAR TO PRESERVE THE UNION. MALI ALSO OPPOSED "BALKANIZATION" AND THEREFORE STRONGLY SUPPORTED REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WEST AFRICA. BEYE WENT ON TO SAY THAT, RECOGNIZING THE HEAVY WORLD-WIDE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE, MALI KNEW THAT ITS PROBLEMS COULD NOT TAKE FIRST PRIORITY WITH THEM, BUT HE HOPED THE UNITED STATES WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE SYMPATHETIC TO MALI'S CONCERNS. BEYE EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOR AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT AND DROUGHT AID AND SEVERAL TIMES STRESSED MALI'S DESIRE FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

4. I THANKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER, COMMENTED ON THE CURRENT GOOD STATE OF OUR RELATIONS, ASSURED HIM THAT MALI'S PROBLEMS WERE GIVEN CAREFUL ATTENTION BY SENIOR OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON, DESCRIBED OUR SUBSTANTIAL AID PROGRAM, AND STATED THAT SUCH COOPERATION WOULD CONTINUE AND WOULD GROW.

5. BEYE THEN SAID THAT, THOUGH THE MEETING WAS INTENDED ONLY AS A COURTESY CALL, THERE WERE TWO SPECIFIC ISSUES HE WOULD LIKE TO RAISE, ONE POLITICAL, THE OTHER ECONOMIC.  
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FIRST, HE WOULD LIKE TO BE RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 15 AND OCTOBER 15 WHEN BEYE WILL BE IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND OTHER MATTERS. HE KNEW THE SECRETARY HAD BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS IN NEW YORK DURING HIS VISIT TO THE UNGA, BUT IF POSSIBLE BEYE WOULD PREFER TO CALL ON HIM IN WASHINGTON. HE HOPED THAT WITH THIS MUCH FOREWARNING HIS REQUEST COULD BE HONORED. I PROMISED TO REPORT HIS DESIRE.

6. THE SECOND POINT WAS THAT, WHILE THE UNITED STATES HAD MANY AID PROJECTS IN MALI, ALL OF WHICH WERE NEEDED AND WELCOMED, THERE WERE CERTAIN AREAS IN WHICH IT WAS "CURIOUSLY ABSENT". HE WENT ON TO MAKE A STRONG PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE IN INFRASTRUCTURE. HE SAID THAT FOR MALI TO ASK FOR EMERGENCY AID YEAR AFTER YEAR WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH ITS PROUD HERITAGE, AND IT DID NOT LIKE TO DO SO. IT WANTED, INSTEAD, HELP FROM DONOR COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH THE STRUCTURAL BASE FROM WHICH MALI COULD TAKE OFF AND THEN SEE TO ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ITS OWN EFFORTS. INFRASTRUCTURE WAS CRITICAL TO THE UNDERTAKING, FOR, WITHOUT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND A TRANSPORT NETWORK, MALI AND THE SAHEL WOULD ONLY SINK FURTHER.

HOW ANYONE COULD THINK THAT A DAM, OR A ROAD, OR A RAILROAD  
WOULD NOT HELP THE POOR IN A COUNTRY LIKE MALI WAS INCOM-  
PREHENSIBLE TO HIM.

7. I RESPONDED THAT I WAS PERSONALLY IN WHOLEHEARTED  
AGREEMENT WITH HIM. I WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THE PRESENT  
CONGRESSIONAL CONSTRAINTS ON INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS BUT  
CONTINUED THAT THE CONGRESS NOW SEEMED MORE OPEN-MINDED  
AND THAT IT HAD AGREED TO CONSIDER EXECUTIVE BRANCH PRO-  
POSALS IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE DOMAIN WHEN THEY WERE FOR-  
MULATED. THAT WAS IN PROCESS, AND WE HAD SOME HOPE THAT  
THE CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE ON AID MATTERS WOULD BE BROADENED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BAMA KO 2648

8. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE FERVENTLY HOPED IT WOULD.

9. COMMENT: BEYE'S INITIATIVE AND OPENNESS ARE IN SUCH  
STRIKING CONTRAST TO HIS PREDECESSOR, THE ELUSIVE AND  
DISTANT CHARLES SAMBA CISSOKHO (ARRESTED FOLLOWING THE  
PREEMPTIVE COUP OF FEBRUARY 28) THAT THW WHOLE DIPLOMATIC  
CORPS IS WIDE-EYED ABOUT IT. BEYE IS A MODERATE,  
TRAINED IN FRANCE IN LAW AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND  
UNTIL HIS FIRST ACCESSION TO THE GOVERNMENT AS MINISTER  
OF YOUTH, SPORTS, ARTS, AND CULTURE IN JANUARY HE WAS  
PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AT THE ECOLE NATIONALE  
D'ADMINISTRATION AND HEAD OF THE LAW OFFICE THAT HANDLES

ALL LITIGATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI. WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY MAJOR CHANGES IN MALI'S FOREIGN POLICY AS A RESULT OF BEYE'S BEING NAMED FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT WE DO EXPECT EASIER ACCESS AND A SYMPATHETIC HEARING.

10. I HOPE THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S APPEAL FOR INFRA-CONFIDENTIAL

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STRUCTURE ASSISTANCE WILL BE HELPFUL IN THE PREPARATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S PRESENTATION TO THE CONGRESS.

1. I URGE THAT MINISTER BEYE BE FITTED INTO THE SECRETARY'S CROWDED SCHEDULE IN THE SEPTEMBER 15- OCTOBER 15 PERIOD. MALI HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED AT SUCH A LEVEL IN A LONG TIME, AND IT WOULD BE A MOST BENEFICIAL EVENT IN ITS EFFECT HERE.  
BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 4  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014